

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), Applicants hereby request an extension of time for **One Month** to respond to the above-referenced Office Action. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fee of \$110.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-1225 (Docket no. VAS-5041CIP1). A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

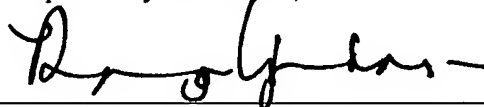
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application is now ready for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited. If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (949) 250-6801.

If an appropriate payment does not accompany or precede this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, such as under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, including any petition for extension of time, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1225.

Dated: March 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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